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Achenbach, Page 6

PGA Tour over what he sees as a version of age discrimination.

Almost 77 years old, Barber has played in three tournaments this season — at Phoenix, San Diego and Los Angeles — and is threatening to enter additional events. Because he earned a lifetime exemption with his 1961 victory in the PGA Championship, he can pretty much play as much as he wants on the PGA Tour.

Barber hasn't broken 80 in six rounds, but is unperturbed by the criticism of fellow players and Tour officials. Commissioner Deane Beman has written Barber, asking him not to enter, and he has received criticism in the media. To no avail.

"I'm pretty much my own guy," said Barber in one of the year's great understatements. "I don't get pushed around."

What Barber really wants is a guaranteed spot on the Senior PGA Tour. But this year he has lost such an exemption because his all-time combined money total on both tours isn't high enough. So he finds himself in a unique position — he is automatically eligible for Tour competition but not for Senior events.

"I won seven tournaments and a major championship," he says, "but the tournaments didn't pay that much. There are guys (on the Senior Tour) who didn't win a tournament who have more (career) money than I do. It isn't fair. I'm being penalized because I played earlier and the purses were lower."

doesn't bother me in the least. I earned it. I'm one of the fellows who helped get the situation where it is. I used to drive 40,000 miles a year on the Tour. Now they fly, and somebody is there to meet them at the airport."

— Jerry Barber

To make his point, Barber has taken advantage of his lifetime Tour exemption. Anyone winning the PGA Championship today earns a 10-year exemption, but it used to be a lifetime pass.

"The players I play with have been very, very good," said Barber, talking about congeniality on the Tour. "The players I don't play with, well, there are a lot of icebergs. You'd think I'm taking up 10 spots instead of one.

"But I don't care what anybody thinks. It doesn't bother me in the least. I

See Barber, Page 19

20769-VF

Caddy group seeks sponsors, won't take controversial ads

By JAMES ACHENBACH

PACIFIC PALISADES, Calif. Yes, said Joe (Gypsy) Grillo, the Professional Tour Caddy Association is looking for new corporate sponsors.

But, no, contrary to a published report, the PTCA will not accept cigarette advertising and, no, it will not accept liquor advertising unless accompanied by labels that warn against drinking and driving.

"We're a big supporter of MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving)," said Grillo, co-founder of the PTCA.

Grillo was reacting to criticism of PTCA plans to expand its corporate involvement. What the group wants to do is sell advertising space on visors worn by caddies, and perhaps on shirts and pants as well.

Currently the PTCA has three visor deals — with the PGA Tour, MCI Heritage Classic and Kmart Greater Greensboro Open.

"We're trying to plan for the future," said Grillo. "We're trying to get enough money to buy health insurance for the caddies and get some kind of profit sharing. Right now, we have nothing."

Grillo has caddied for Jim Simons, Curtis Strange, Jay Haas, Brad Faxon and Steve Elkington, but now he is devoting all his time to the PTCA. He and Mike Carrick, who is Tom Kite's caddy, founded the group back in 1982. It currently has 140 members.

In order to buy a 35-foot motor home last year, Grillo took on personal mortgages. The risk is his. He spent eight weeks converting the motor home into a traveling lunchroom and social center for the caddies who follow the PGA Tour.

At the Nissan Los Angeles Open, Grillo and his 19-year-old son, Daniel, were serving stuffed chicken breasts to caddies and players. Many of the players have subsidized the motor home, and Grillo rotates their names on a board outside the rolling restaurant. The L.A. Open names were Steve Pate, Davis Love III, Greg Norman, Mark O'Meara and Faxon.

Also on the side of the motor home is a Coca-Cola sign. The PTCA has signed a contract with the soft drink company, another sign of changing times for caddies.

"Look," Grillo said, a little defensively. "We'd never take anybody as a sponsor who wouldn't be cooperative with the Tour. We're just trying to improve things.

"Being a caddy used to be like standing on the corner. We would spend a lot of time sitting on our bags and waiting for our players. But now we have some place to go."

A few caddies, acting independently, are paid to advertise the names of companies on their visors. Generally, though, caddies must rely entirely on the success and generosity of their players.

"We're trying to build some stability into this profession," Grillo said. o

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TOUR NOTES

that his graphite shafts had too little torque (1.0 degrees). He was looking for more feel with his wedges and short irons. So he got out his old steelies.

Meanwhile, Burl Outlaw of G. Loomis had called Jeff Meyer, the company's director of engineering, and explained the situation. In

So much for that rumor.

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Jim Albus won his second Senior P Tour event at the GTE Suncoast Classi Tampa, Fla., Feb. 19-21, and last week Chrysler Cup pro-am Albus confessed wasn't, perhaps, worthy of it tee to gr

"I haven't told anybody yet, but I di play well (in Tampa)," Albus said. "I just ted super."

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/hxdm0004